

The Spirit

Volume V Number 4

MARCH 2009

STAR COLUMNIST HEADED FOR WAR

Michael Labeit Prepares for Afghanistan Deployment

By Jacki Verbil

For nearly three years, he has been a columnist for *The Spirit* and a politically conservative voice on campus. Now, Michael Labeit will shortly be assuming another role: an active duty soldier in the United States Army.

As a member of the United States Army Reserve for the last three years, he has trained on weekends and during summers in preparation for the moment that his unit would be activated and sent to the Middle East. That moment has arrived.

Michael is one of those young men and women who enlisted in the post-9/11 era to serve their country. "I joined to extend the same professional courtesy to our enemies as they extended to us on September 11, 2001," he said.

His Basic Combat Training took place at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and his AIT (Advanced Individual Training) was at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Michael's MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) is 21R—an interior electrician. But he felt that he could better fight America's enemies in one of the combat arms and so he opted to retrain as an artilleryman at Fort Sill, the home of the Army field artillery.

"Being a reservist is somewhat boring," he said. "I want to fulfill my intended enlistment purpose and fight, which is why I wanted to be in a combat branch of the Army," he added.

Additionally, the combat branches pay extra and he will be able to generate more of an income than if he was in a non-combat specialty.

"Though I will be in a combat branch, it's not like I'm going to be a grunt—a rifleman. Typically, our artillery pieces fire at targets 32 kilometers from the fire base, so it's a bit safer," he said.

His reserve unit expects to be activated by the end of 2009, and as he points out, "there is no question but that we will be going to Afghanistan."

Assignment to Afghanistan, the center of combat activity in the Middle East currently, actually pleases Michael. "There is no question that Afghanistan was and is

the original location of the subversives who planned and executed the 9/11 attacks. This will give me a chance to fight back," he said.

He is also motivated by his own patriotic and conservative ideology. "The only moral purpose for the existence of the U.S. military is the protection of the individual rights of American citizens via defending and retaliating against foreign aggression," he said. "If Afghanistan is where those aggressors are, then that is where the army should be and where I want to be," he added.

His deployment will last anywhere from 14 to 18 months, depending upon

conditions in-country at the time. When he returns home, he would like to complete his senior year of college at St. Joseph's, fully entitled to educational benefits as specified in the G.I. Bill of Rights.

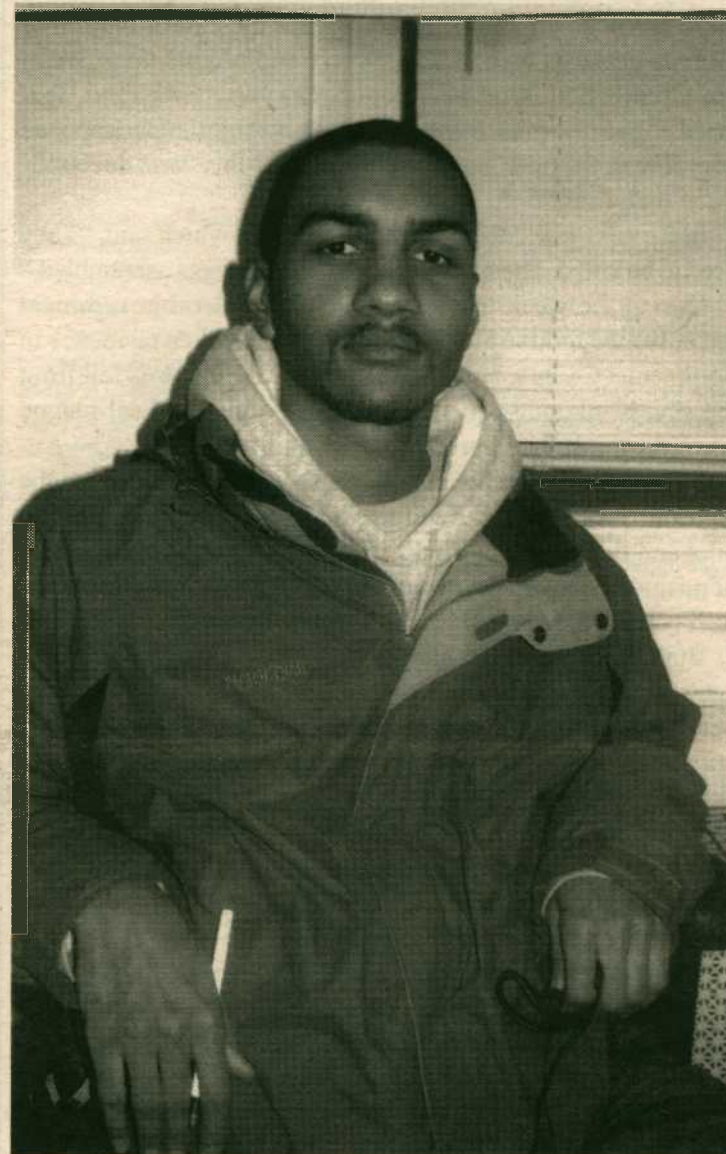
"I've truly enjoyed my experience as a columnist for *The Spirit*, sharing my views with my fellow students," he said.

In fact, he has been offered the opportunity to file columns from Afghanistan and he is eager to do so. His new column will be entitled "From the Front Lines" and he will talk about his experiences as one of America's warriors.

Michael's career plans are to become a professional consulting economist and to teach economics.

"Michael's columns have had a brilliance and polish to them that have been unprecedented in my experience with student publications," said Dr. Howard Weiner, Director of Student Publications. "I can't claim to have understood every word he said, because his knowledge of economics dwarfs my own, but I knew I was reading the words of a brilliant student," he added.

And so Michael Labeit takes his leave of St. Joseph's for the next year and a half, but he has already been assured that upon his return, there will always be a position for him on *The Spirit* as an honored veteran of war.



SP/4 Michael Labeit prepares for deployment



SGA President Christian Jocelyn with Jonathan Sprinkles

TRAINING LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE

By Cory Jones

What is leadership? How do you develop leaders? What makes a great leader?

In an attempt to answer these and other questions, a new pilot program has been launched by the Office of Co-Curricular Activities: The Student Leadership Experience.

The SLE is aimed at providing undergraduate students with activities, training and the tools necessary to influence and improve SJC and its student body. It attempts to illuminate the many forms that leadership can take.

"This is an opportunity for our students to develop their leadership skills," said Sherrie VanArman, Director of Co-Curricular Programs. She

hopes that the program will make participants better rounded students, workers and individuals.

There are several steps to completing the SLE program. Students kicked off the program on Saturday, January 24th with a "Break on Through" workshop presented by Troy Stende. On February 2nd, participants attended a common hour presentation where Jonathan Sprinkles, author of *Why Settle? Be the Best YOU that YOU Can Be!* instructed students to LIVE like real leaders.

Student participants in the program are required to attend three more major on-campus events. Since no leadership program would be complete without service, students are also required

to complete eight or more hours of documented community service.

Those who complete all the necessary steps will receive Certified Student Leader certificates at a celebratory brunch on Saturday, April 25th.

Another ancillary benefit of the program is that by developing leaders in undergraduates, there will be a leadership pool ready to step forward for positions in student government and CAB when the need arises.

"I think the training and the skills I am learning in this program are life skills," said sophomore Nina Zito. "The program is designed not just to make you an on-campus leader, but to make you a leader in real life once you graduate," she added.

EDITORIAL

RUSHING TO JUDGEMENT IS FOR THE BIRDS

You have to wonder where all the tree-huggers, environmentalists and animal activists are hiding these days. Where is PETA when you really need their input?

It has been eight weeks, since the near-disastrous and completely miraculous crash of Flight 1549 in the Hudson River, there has been an almost rabid call for the extermination of Canada geese as menaces to society and blights upon Western Civilization. One newspaper, *The New York Post*, featured a goose on its front page with a target superimposed over it with the headline "PLUCK 'EM!" in a 'war-declared' three inch font.

In the next week, the *Post* ran an editorial which said, "They need to be killed. Their nests destroyed. Their eggs...scrambled."

During the week of January 26th, the federal government fed poisoned food to 5000 starlings that had taken residence in Sommerset County, New Jersey, and the dying birds fell from the sky, blanketing private homes like some biblical plague leveled against the Pharaoh.

Make no mistakes about it: the aptly named "Miracle on the Hudson" was just that: a miracle and a great testimony to the pilot and flight crew of Flight 1549. A slight cross-wind, a hair of misjudgement on the part of the pilot, and the headlines very well could have read, "155 Die as Plane Drops into River."

But we need to take a step back from the events of that near catastrophic day and consider certain indisputable facts. To begin with, birds fly. Always have, always will (unless they are ostriches or emus). The sky, whether we choose to admit it or not, is *their* domain, not ours. It is *we* who invade *their* space and not vice versa.

It would make no more sense to vent our fury at geese than it would to build a home in the middle of the forest, and then rage against deer for eating the shrubs you plant to beautify your house. The forest is *their* habitat and *we* are the invaders.

Curiously enough, entire energy projects have been halted because they would have endangered the spotted owl. Similarly, drilling for oil in Alaska is strictly limited because of the herds of caribou which might be inconvenienced. Oddly, when the pipeline was built that carries oil to Prudhomme Bay, the population of elk actually increased—but that did not stop the environmentalists and animal activists from shaking their fists at the government for the brutal treatment of owls and caribou.

And yet, who will speak for the Canada goose? No one wants to see a plane crash under any circumstances, neither through man-made negligence or natural mischance through collision with birds. The sanctity of human life must always be respected—but shouldn't the same standards apply to animal life?

It is interesting that NASA has cameras that can read the license plate numbers on a car—from 240 miles up in space—but we cannot come up with the technology to spot a flock of geese well in advance of a catastrophe. Ships are equipped with radar that permits them to spot sea traffic over the horizon and thus avoid collisions. But we can't create a device to shoo away innocent birds?

It might seem like a slippery slope argument: first geese and starlings; then robins and blue jays—then, any flying creature that might be ingested by a jet engine. But perhaps it is not as slippery as all that. If we are willing to slaughter thousands of geese in the name of safety, then why not other species?

Haven't we damaged nature enough? Or are we willing to diversify our rapaciousness and extend it to other living things?



The Spirit

St. Joseph's College
245 Clinton Avenue • Brooklyn, New York 11205

ADVISER

Dr. Howard B. Weiner

Editors-in-Chief

Nina Zito

Jacki Verbil

Layout Editors

Kristen McMaster

Catherine Muldoon

Photography Editor

Bala Huseinovic

Cartoonist

Wilkerson Exantas

Columnists

Nick Souleotis, Kristen McMaster,

Michael Labeit, Przemek Kudla

Reporters

Cory Jones, Lori Bastien, Chyna Hunter,

Brenda Rivera, Marsha Desrosiers,

Khosnoor Alam, Crystal Tejada,

Catherine Muldoon, Kristen McMasters,

Corina Estevez



VERBILIZATIONS

By Jaclyn Verbil

JUST STAND THERE AND POSE ALREADY!

Here's a phrase that started out on TV in the 1950s and lasted until 2004 when the show finally went off the air: "Smile! You're on Candid Camera."

Nowadays, you almost never hear the words 'candid' and 'camera' used together in the same sentence. Today, nothing about pictures seems to be candid or spontaneous. Every picture we take in this technologically advanced digital age is posed for, posed for again, and then reposed for until we find the perfect shot.

By perfect, I mean the one that best accentuates our features and the one in which we look the most glamorous.

What does *Ecclesiastes* say? "Vanity of vanities—all is vanity." If we can't look perfect, we just don't want to be photographed.

Yes, we worship at the shrine of the folks at Adobe who invented Photoshop, because they enable us to hide every single imperfection, every blemish, every hair that somehow got out of place. I wonder what Oliver Cromwell with his "warts and all" approach to his portrait would have thought if he could see what goes on today.

This is certainly the 'best of times' when we can Photoshop ourselves into looking two sizes smaller and wind up with a face befitting a sculpture by Michaelangelo.

And it's all thanks to our new best friend—the digital camera!

Long gone are the days of dropping film off at the drug store or in the mailbox and waiting to see how the pictures came out. As a child, one of my favorite things to do was to take pictures.

And the anticipation of getting those pictures back a week or so later! Sometimes, I would put a roll of film in my drawer and not discover it for several years. Then I

would have it developed—and the same excitement was there when they came back!

Today, alas, we have none of that spontaneity, none of the surprise. The digital camera has sucked the fun and thrill out of taking pictures and replaced it with immediate gratification of seeing our image and retaking it if we are dissatisfied.

Today, we upload pictures to sites like MySpace and Facebook almost immediately after they are taken. You may just have walked in the door from your cousin's Sweet 16 party, and as soon as you log in to Facebook—before you even change your clothes—you can see that you have already been 'tagged' in photos.

Comedian Demetri Martin jokes that digital cameras allow us to reminisce—instantly. Forget about looking at pictures from bygone days when you would sit around the table and pass around prints curled with age or faded by time.

And as for making copies of prints for people—why bother? No sense in wasting time and money with that when you can share them online and store them on a hard drive. You can even upload them to a digital picture frame and have them scroll onscreen throughout the day like in some scene out of a Harry Potter film.

But for everything you gain, there is always something lost. Years from now you will have no picture to share with your children and grandchildren. All of your pictures, along with the memories that go along with them will be lost in cyberspace, collecting virtual dust and taking up memory.

What—you've never heard of hard drives crashing and losing everything? It's happened to me; it could happen to you too.

And here's another gripe: This is my second year as editor-in-chief of *The Spirit*, and now and again, I have to go out and take photographs for the

paper or the yearbook. Well. I might as well wear a bell around my neck and cry out, "Unclean!" because when SJC students see me coming, it is as if I were a leper.

So many students simply refuse to let me take their pictures. Bad hair days? Bad complexion days? Bad clothing day? Bad mood day?

I really don't get it. It's a photograph, for goodness sake. It's not going to hang in the Met.

And it's not just an undergraduate thing. At times I stay late to photograph the graduate students for the yearbook. "Sorry, not today." "Sorry, not this week." "Sorry, not this lifetime."

And yet, you just have the feeling that it is these very people who will loudly complain that the yearbook always seems to have so many of the same faces photographed.

We need to stop being so overly consumed with our physical appearance and begin to take a closer look at what's on the inside.

See, what really needs improvement is not the way you look, but the way you feel about yourself. Even the Miss America contest has 49 losers. Not everyone can be beautiful on the outside. Personally, I'm more concerned about working on my insides!

So listen: next time you see me looking for likely subjects for some pictures, don't bury your face in your burger deluxe platters or suddenly run to the restroom. If you feel good about yourself, who knows? Maybe the next time you see me, you will run up to me and just beg me to take your picture! And wouldn't that be a refreshing change?



Editors Nina Zito and Jacki Verbil with newest awards

SJC Publications Tops in Nation Again

Footprints and The Spirit Win 4th Titles in a Row

By Chyan Hunte

And the string remains unbroken! For the fourth year in a row, both of St. Joseph's College's publications, *The Spirit* and *Footprints*, have taken top honors in the American Scholastic Press Association Annual Contest and Review.

But this year, the award to *The Spirit* came with something extra special: St. Joseph's was the only publication awarded First Place with Special Merit for its excellence in journalism.

The ASPA judge said of the newspaper, "Your paper is exceptionally notable for the depth and extent of its coverage of campus events and the writing is of the highest journalistic caliber."

Of the yearbook, the judge said, "Your use of color and your carrying your theme through the entire book make this a remarkable yearbook in every respect."

The editors-in-chief of *The Spirit* expressed delight at winning top accolades. "It really makes all the hard work worth it when you realize that professional journalists like what we have done," said Jacki Verbil.

Her sentiments were echoed by her co-editor, Nina Zito, who said, "I hope that the students at SJC will come to

appreciate what it takes to get the newspaper out and use these awards as a motivation for joining our staff."

The editor-in-chief of *Footprints* 2008 was Christina Ament who graduated in June. When informed of how the yearbook fared in the competition, she said, "It's a terrific feeling to know that while I was at St. Joseph's, I was on four championship publications staffs as well as four championship volleyball teams. These things leave me with great memories of a great school."

Both publications were rated by professionals on various aspects of journalism including layout, design, writing, theme, photography, scope of coverage and relevance.

The newspaper scored 945 out of a possible 1000 points, achieving perfect marks in Creativity and General Plan. The yearbook was not far behind with an aggregate score of 910 points.

"I always get very nervous before I open up the envelopes with the contest results, because I do not like to come in second in anything," said Director of Student Publications Dr. Howard Weiner. "But when I saw the results, it really struck me how hard the staffs had to work to achieve

these results," he added.

As Director of Student Publications, Dr. Weiner would like to see an expansion of the writing opportunities for SJC students.

"I don't see why we can't publish a science journal, a foreign language magazine and even a history journal," said Dr. Weiner. "As long as we can find students willing to contribute their writing, we can publish in these areas—and I certainly think it would be a feather in the SJC cap to have so many publications in such a small school," he added.

The staff of *The Spirit* has already published three editions of the newspaper with another two on the way for second semester, plus, they must ready the September paper before school ends so it can be distributed at orientation.

The yearbook staff has been at work on *Footprints* 2009 since last March and will be working on the book right up through graduation.

"If there something we need, it's more students working on staff, taking pictures, learning design and layout," said Dr. Weiner. "Give us sufficient staff members and we can keep winning these awards for many years to come," he added.



Kristen's Endless Playlist

By Kristen McMaster

HERE'S WHO'S RED HOT IN MUSIC!

It's a new year, and that always means new music! I'm back to unload all of my new find in the music world and inform you of what's hot and what's not.

After celebrating my birthday recently, I treated myself to some new CDs and was introduced to great new sounds. In my last column, I discussed Britney Spears', Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga, all of which were great.

But Britney's new CD, "Circus" just blew me away! It was one of the greatest CD comebacks of any pop star. Every song was catchy and fun to listen to. With the exception of the song "My Baby," which was the only horrible song on the disc and one of the worst songs I have ever heard, the CD is definitely worth the purchase price.

Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga's CDs lived up to their potential with each track having a new message, a different rhythm and just over all greatness. My personal favorites are "White Horse" by Taylor Swift and "Starstruck" by Lady Gaga. I can listen to these two songs over and over again without tiring of them.

Okay. Enough with the ladies. What I really want to talk about are two bands that I have recently stumbled upon and that I love.

I'm talking about "The Maine" and "The Friday Night Boys." "The Maine" is one of the greatest bands of this year. Even though they released their debut album in July of last year, they still aren't known by most of the public. Their album, "Can't Stop, Won't Stop" is worth a listen. The song, "Everything I Ask For" has been featured in movies and

television, and was their premiere song from the CD, released as a music video I November of 2008.

Their lyrics are fresh and they have one of the most unique ways of portraying life through a teenager's eyes.

Consider the following lyrics:

Tell me that you love me.
And it'll be all right.
Are you thinking of me?
Just come with me tonight.
You know I need you.
Just like you need me.
Can't stop. Won't stop.
I must be dreaming.
Can't stop, won't stop.
I must be dreaming.

This is one of my favorite lyrics. Most of the band members are still in high school, but they still go on tour with some of the most famous bands of the last few years.

They have toured with bands like Paramore, Good Charlotte, Boys Like Girls, Metro Station and many more. They are well on their way to fame!

"The Friday Night Boys" are also on the road to stardom, releasing their debut album later this year. The band has already released three EP CDs which are selling right off the shelf.

Their lyrics are really great. My personal favorites are "High School" and "Superman (Save You). They too take an interesting approach to romance for young lovers.

These two bands are amazing and should be on everyone's playlists. Hopefully, you will take my advice and go out and get their CDs.

Next month—more music. See you then!

Paesanos Newest Ethnic Club on Campus

By Nina Zito

Let's deal with the predictable stereotypes first: no, not every Italian is in the Mafia, neither do they all relish pasta, nor does every one of them talk with their hands.

This year, St. Joseph's College brought new meaning to Italian heritage as the Paesanos Club held its first charity event on February 19th in the cafeteria.

One of the club's major events was called the Pasta Bowl '09. Students and faculty members got to create their own heaping pasta bowls for a charge of \$3.00 per plate. All proceeds from the event was donated to Candlelighters: A Childhood Cancer Foundation.

The Paesanos Club held its first meeting on February 10, 2009 and it was at this meeting that the club restated its mission statement: to celebrate Italian-American heritage shared by many members of the SJC community by offering a voice and affirmation of traditions, beliefs and customs pertaining to the Italian culture.

"There is such a strong Italian-American presence on campus, but we are so divided, and so I want to bring us all together and add cultural climate to the community of St. Joseph's," said club president Anthony Catalanotti.

Art, music, science—all are part of the major contributions to world culture made by Italians and Italian-Americans. Celebrating these individuals and their achievements is one of the aims of the club and its members.

"I want everyone to know that Italians are not only about food and talking with our hands," said club vice-president Laura Ferentino. "We have our own customs and beliefs that make us who we are," she added.

Other events sponsored by the Paesanos Club were Movie Night on March 5th in which they showed "La Vita Bella." The club also plans on having a St. Joseph's Day celebration where they will serve delicious Italian St. Joseph's pastries. Also, on April 2nd, the group will be taking a trip to Little Italy to visit the Italian

Heritage Museum and the legendary Ferrara's Italian bakery.

"I wanted to pick a club that I could identify with as an Italian-American and I thought the Paesanos sounded interesting, so I joined," said freshman Deanna Oddo.

Club members want everyone on the campus to know that membership is not limited to those of Italian-American heritage. They welcome all nationalities and ethnicities so that the diverse cultures on the Brooklyn campus can come together in the spirit of unity and enlightenment.



The Paesanos man the buffet line

Bingo Brings in Big Bucks

By Marsha Desrosiers

Say the word 'Bingo' and the mind produces images of senior citizens hunched over multiple cards with pre-inked markers, hanging in eager anticipation on every number called by the bingo-master.

But not any more! Now, Bingo is popular on college campuses as well as in urban, suburban and rural America.

The proof? Consider the packed Tuohy Hall auditorium on Thursday, February 26, when SJC sponsored its first Bingo event of the year.

Co-sponsored by the Speech and Language Club and the Child Study Club, the event was attended by students, faculty and staff members alike.

For the ultra-reasonable price of two Bingo cards for \$1.00, the crowd got to play for prizes and for a good cause.

All proceeds from the game went to Operation Smile, a children's charity that treats facial deformities such as cleft lips and cleft palates in patients all around the world.

The event, MC'ed by Joseph Lo Giudice, raised \$340 for the charity.

Free pizza and beverages also were provided for all the participants in the event.

Some of the prizes awarded included a gift set from Bath and Body Works, a basket from the Athletics Department, a basket from the Ad-

missions Office, a basket from the Alumni Office and a Build-a-Bear.

Bingo is one of those phenomena whose popularity seems to go in cycles. Its origin was in a game called Beano, and it is speculated that the original numbers on cards were covered with dried beans.

Legend has it that one day, a player got so excited at winning that he cried out "Bingo" instead of "Beano" and the new name stuck.

The popularity of the game can be attested to by the fact that in

America alone, there are several thousand Bingo halls, not to mention the volunteer fire departments, churches and schools that also play host to the game.

In fact, if you were to Google the word Bingo, there would be nearly 42 million hits! Yes, it's not just your grandparents' game any longer.

A second Bingo event will be held later in the spring term and once again, Tuohy Hall will ring out with the gleeful cries of "Bingo!" when someone wins.



The joys of common hour bingo

**PLEASE FILL OUT
YOUR FAFSA FOR
2009-2010**

@

www.fafsa.ed.gov

**** PRIORITY DEADLINE FOR
CONTINUING STUDENTS
APRIL 30, 2009 ****

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STOP BY
THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**



The Culture Vulture

By Nick Souleotis

ROSIE'S BIOGRAPHY TELLS IT ALL

Famed talk show host, comedienne and Broadway star Rosie O'Donnell has written a very inspirational memoir entitled, *Find Me*. In this book, she speaks candidly throughout about her life and struggles.

Well known for being outspoken, even combative, *Find Me* shows a more sensitive side of Rosie O'Donnell. She has overcome many obstacles in her life, and she speaks to her readers in diverse ways.

The book is focused on a special friendship that she has with a young teenager named Stacie, who is about to give birth. Rosie is the founder of the adoption agency called "For All Kind." She spent hours on the phone with this young girl over the course of a few months. In her conversations, she soon found out that she was speaking with a woman with multiple-personality disorder.

After Rosie finds out that Stacie is in fact a 42 year old woman, she continues to speak with her and tries to help her. She spends countless hours trying to get to know all seven of Stacie's personalities.

Then she begins to tell her own life story. Rosie's mother passed away when she was only eight years old. She writes of being sexually abused as a child, but she refuses to reveal who the abuser was. She describes being sent home from school for being dirty and openly discusses how depressing her childhood was after the death of her mother.

Equally candid is her discussion of her own flaws and how they have impacted upon her life and career over the years. She notes that having a big heart has at times drained her of her mind and soul.

Child care is a very important issue to her and she spends considerable time writing about the adoption of her first child, Parker. Child care has been a major cause of hers and she has given over 15 million dollars to child care organizations.

She also discusses raising her children with her partner, Kelli Carpenter. She and Kelli have been together for over seven years and she credits Kelli with keeping her grounded and stable, even in times of career and personal stress.

Rosie O'Donnell has been open with the public about her sexuality. She has sponsored a series of cruises for gay families called "All Aboard Rosie's Family Cruise." The media has not always been kind to her for her efforts on behalf of gay couples, but she stands by her convictions. The first cruise was an unequivocal success.

Over five years ago, Rosie gave up her successful talk show. She was a regular member of "The View" and appears occasionally in films and in Broadway shows such as *Seussical: The Musical* and *Grease*. But she decided she needed a break from the heavy workload of a daily TV show. She now resides in Miami, Florida with her family, and according to *Find Me*, she is very happy.

Find Me is the kind of biography that will touch each reader in a different way. Rosie O'Donnell is a brave and outspoken celebrity. As a mother and advocate, she is deeply committed to family and causes. Her devotion to children who are less fortunate is noteworthy.

For anyone who is a fan of Rosie O'Donnell, *Find Me* will provide an absorbing life story told in a very positive way.

We Have a Winner!



Lisa Gonzalez

Finally! After almost three years, *The Spirit* has awarded another prize in its monthly trivia contest, "College Knowledge."

Not since senior Stephen Klein (Class of 2007) answered all the questions correctly, has anyone been able to outsmart the quizmaster and score a 100%—that is, not until Lisa Santiago of the Financial Aid Office solved the Christmas Quiz and sent in her answers in January 2009.

"I was just sitting around the office at lunch and figured, let me see if I can do this," she said.

And she did! She successfully answered all the Christmas questions and won herself a \$25 gift card to Best Buy for her efforts.

"I'm glad someone at least attempts to answer those questions," said assistant editor Deana Elsayed. "They are really pretty tough, when you think about them," she added.

Congratulations to Lisa—and check out the newest version of "College Knowledge" in this edition.



The Individualist

By Michael Labeit

TEXTBOOK AS INDOCTRINATION TOOL

Many people irk me, but few possess the ability to disgust me the way supposed 'expert' Michael Parenti does. I had the displeasure of using his hideously unreadable screed, *Democracy for the Few*, in a political science class and I want to share my view of it with my readers.

Democracy for the Few first and foremost is a logician's nightmare, a vain attempt at indoctrination via historical revisionism. The book is flooded with so many false causes, non sequiturs, straw men, mischaracterizations, sleight-of-hand tricks and outright lies, that it baffles me how it was ever chosen a textbook in the first place.

Let's take an economic perspective. Parenti is a socialist apologist and his writing speaks for itself. In one passage he writes, "Wealth and poverty are not just juxtaposed, they are in close dynamic relationship. Wealth creates poverty and relies on it for its own continued existence."

Perhaps if Parenti had paid attention, he would have known that *poverty* is defined as the *absence* of wealth, which would make Parenti's proposition read as: Wealth creates the absence of wealth." Absurd.

Parenti doesn't ever intend to be objective about democracy. He preps his captive audience in the beginning when he writes that the "study of politics is itself a political act, containing little that is neutral." This is used to warn readers that since objectivity is allegedly near impossible, a political position will be taken in the book.

And take a political position he does! He writes, "Our goal should be an egalitarian, communitarian, environmentally conscious, democratic socialism...." and that we should denounce the "plunder, poverty, prostitution, and pornography of the free-market paradise."

Of course, according to this reasoning, the socialist slavepens of the 20th century were just a fluke. After all, wasn't the Soviet Union characterized as a 'worker's paradise'?

Indeed, Parenti downplays the "crimes of communist societies" by charging that they provided "a guaranteed right to a job, no hunger or homelessness, free medical care and free education to the highest level of

one's ability, subsidized utilities and transportation, free cultural events and a guaranteed pension after retirement." Just ask Eastern Europeans if they received those things under the USSR.

Further, he writes that "A common problem of modern capitalism is inflation." To prove his point, he cites U.S. inflation data on housing, food, gas and health care prices. First of all, capitalism is *not* what we possess. Under capitalism, the factors of production are for private sale and the maker allocates resources free from government coercion.

What we have is *corporatism*, where businesses collaborate with government for corporate welfare i.e. bailouts. Such pitiable logic is to be expected from a non-economic demagogue. Parenti cannot even distinguish between the free market and the regulated market—and this inability inundates the entire text.

Parenti's treatment of corporations is equally asinine. In arguing against corporations, he writes, "The Constitution makes no mention of corporations." So? An explicit defense of state/church separation and the right to seek an abortion are also absent from the Constitution. Are they not imperative to civilized society as we know it?

Parenti exclaims, "While corporations are often called producers, the truth is they produce nothing. They are organizational devices for the exploitation of labor and the accumulation of capital." What is this but unabashed deceit? If corporations did not produce anything, the goods and resources presently available in the United States would not exist.

You think I am exaggerating? Regarding the earlier editions, Dr. Alexander Groth, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of California, writes, "In the three editions of *Democracy for the Few*, there are so many grotesque misrepresentations that a careful and detailed review of them would doubtless require nothing short of a 'counterbook.'"

Democracy for the Few is nothing more than a propagandist invective sleazily aimed at appealing to impressionable students. It is typical of the type of indoctrinating education that occurs on thousands of American college campuses today.

Alumni Spotlight: Margaret Norris '04

By Brenda Rivera

Maybe it just feels like home. That could explain why so many SJC alumni come back to work at the college after they graduate, amongst them, Margaret Norris of the Class of 2004.

Margaret was hired by the college in the spring of 2008 and is currently the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations for the Brooklyn Campus.

Her duties include helping to organize and implement alumni events both on and off campus.

She also works with the mentoring program which pairs current students with alumni in the students' prospective fields.

"It's a great opportunity for students to be paired with graduates from the college, because they can relate at a special level and receive guidance that they need," said Margaret about the benefits of the mentoring program.

Some examples of alumni events that she has assisted with include the Spring Reunion, Oktoberfest, the Fall Luncheon, Chapel Players Alumni Night and Volleyball, Basketball and Softball Alumni Nights.

The Alumni Association also co-sponsors events such as Freshman Orientation, Back to School BBQ, the Blood Drive, Spring Carnival, Alcohol Awareness, Senior Class Night and 101 Nights.

As an undergraduate, Margaret was very active on campus. She was the Sophomore Class Representative for her year, the CAB Financial Coordinator, UA Secretary, a member of the Volleyball and Softball Teams and managed the Basketball Team. She was also a member of Chapel Players and the Business Club.

After she graduated, she began working at a large real estate firm doing residential building management. After working for the company for four years, it started changing directions and she sought employment elsewhere.

The Office of Alumni Relations had posted a job opening and she applied for the job. At that time, she was on the Alumni Executive Board, and so she felt that working for the college would be an excellent fit for her.

The Alumni Executive Board is the governing body of the Alumni Association and so it seemed only natural to offer her the position.

Margaret graduated as an Economics major, minoring in Business. From the time she was a freshman, she envisioned herself working on Wall Street for a major financial corporation. But her life took a different path.

"It's great waking up and looking forward to going to work," said Margaret. "It's a small community where



Margaret Norris (Class of 2004)

people care about one another and it's almost like family," she added.

She remains in contact with the girls she became friends with while an undergraduate. In fact, she was maid of honor at one of her friend's weddings.

She plans on applying to graduate school and wants to attend St. Joseph's for her Master's degree. As she notes, she still loves St. Joe's and wants to continue studying at a small college with big dreams.

"I'm truly blessed to work with and to be near such wonderful people," she said. "I had such a rewarding experience here as a student, I look forward to a lifetime of wonderful memories as an alumna," she added.

And so Margaret Norris has come home to St. Joseph's College—a place she really never left.

SJC Soph Leads Fight Against Diabetes

By Corina Estevez

It is called the 'silent killer' and for good reason. Tens of thousands of Americans suffer from diabetes, and have no idea they are afflicted with the disease—until it is potentially too late and has damaged the kidneys, heart, eyes and other organs beyond repair.

One St. Joseph's College student, Jacki Verbil, is doing her part to see that juvenile diabetes (also called Type I diabetes) is eradicated forever.

Each year Jacki and her family take part in the Queens Walk to Cure Diabetes, sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). The walk is held in Flushing Meadows Park in Corona and attracts thousands of participants annually.

Before the actual walk, months of preparation are required including countless hours of fundraising and finding sponsors for the individual walkers.

Jacki's team is called "Jaclyn's Journey/Team Verbil" and consists of over thirty members made up of family, friends, teachers, parents and co-workers.

She first became involved with

the walk in 2001 when she was herself diagnosed with Type I juvenile diabetes.

Over the years, her team has raised thousand of dollars for the cure in addition to winning numerous T-shirt competitions.

This year, the team's "Stamp Out Diabetes" postal-themed T-shirt won 1st place in the competition.

"Team Verbil" also won a sapphire level of excellence award and a gold award for raising an amazing \$10,000 for research.

For the Verbils, the diabetes walk is truly a family affair. Jacki's mother and father each received a Golden Sneaker Awards for raising \$1000 independently.

"It really means a lot to me that all of my family and friends can rally around me and work to find a cure to this disease," said Jacki.

Diabetes is a genetic disease in which the pancreas does not produce enough insulin, a hormone that is needed to help break down food for energy.

Those who suffer from Type I diabetes will be on insulin for the rest of their lives, or until a cure is found.

This means daily injections of insulin, sometimes several times a day, or administering insulin through a pump. But insulin is not a cure for diabetes; it does, however, permit those who have the disease to live and get on with their lives.

Daily finger-sticking to monitor blood sugar is a constant reminder to sufferers that their lives have undergone a profound change. Strict diet and controlled exercise are other necessary adjustments that Type I sufferers must undergo.

Each year, over 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with juvenile diabetes—over 13,000 of whom are children. That's 30 children each day who come down with the disease.

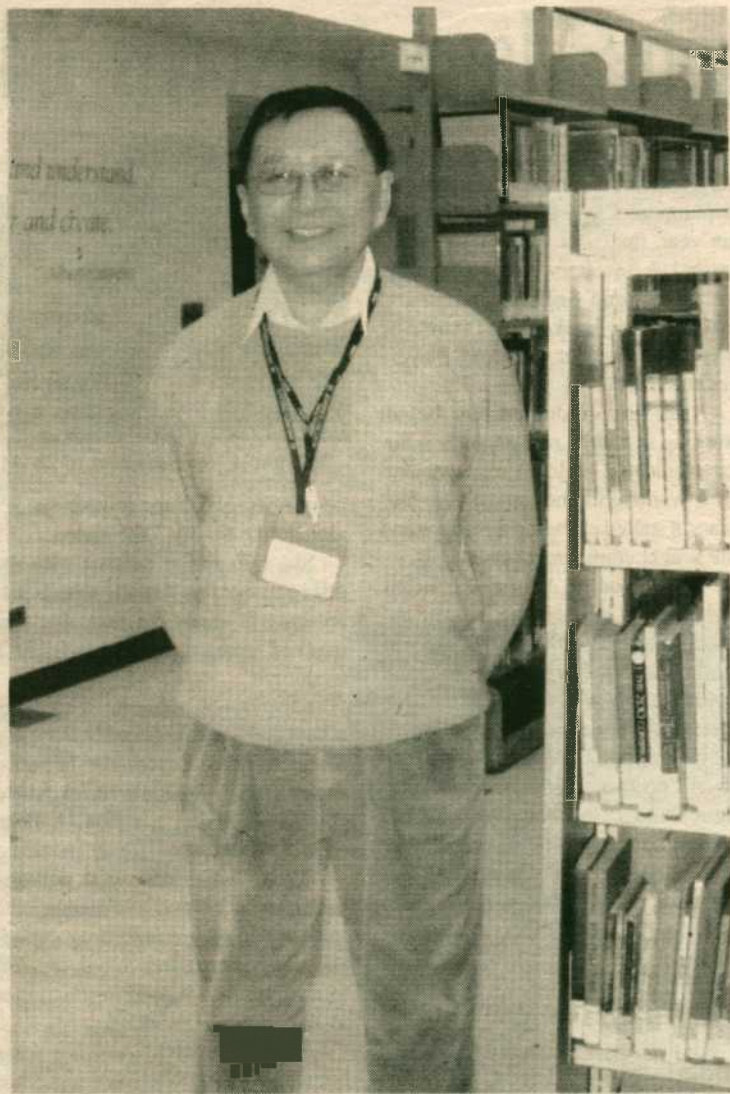
Some of the warning signs of diabetes include lethargy, extreme thirst, frequent urination, increased appetite, sudden weight loss and sudden vision changes.

"I'd like nothing better than to wake up one day and find out that a cure was discovered for diabetes," said Jacki. "But until that day arrives, I will continue my fundraising activities and hope that the cure is not too far in the future," she added.



Jacki Verbil at the Diabetes Walkathon

**The Editors and Staff of
The Spirit
Wish the entire SJC community
a happy and safe spring break!**



Library Director Dr. William Meng

New Curriculum Library Dedicated and Ready for Use

By Jaclyn Verbil

There's something new in McEntegart Hall. Take the elevator to the third floor and when the door opens—you find yourself in the new Curriculum Library.

The Curriculum Library is a resource intended for use by Early Childhood and Secondary Education majors to enhance their teaching skills and provide materials that can be incorporated into the teaching of their subject areas.

The CL was made possible through a grant from the Independence Community Foundation. The actual work was done by the plant staff over a period of ten months from February to December of 2008.

Plans had been on the drawing board to change the Curriculum Library for a number of years. Originally located on the main level of the library, one immediate change was to shift it to the third floor.

According to librarian Dr. William Meng, a main reason for moving the library to the third floor was to centralize the collection and place all the materials in one easy-to-find, accessible location.

Previously, with children's books in one section and secondary education texts in another, the collection lacked organization and was uninviting to education majors.

In fact, some education students were unaware that such a resource even existed on the SJC campus, but with the dedication of the new Curriculum Library in December of 2008, all education students are fully aware of what it has to offer.

Amongst the renovations were the removing of tables and chairs and replacing them with a large circular bookshelf in Room 300. The shelf, which was ordered specially from Denmark and is the first of its kind to be used in North America, holds the library's entire collection of children's books.

The office that was once located in Room 300 has been converted into a seminar room.

"There are many ways to use the new room," said Dr. Meng. "It can be used for seminars, conferences, or for students who need to meet and collaborate on group projects," he added.

The seminar room is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. Teachers as well as students who wish to use the space simply have to send the library an email to find out the room's availability and reserve the space.

All of the secondary education books can be found in the curriculum library as well as oversized books, a dry erase board, a reading stool, two

computers and a printer.

Dr. Meng has also stated that child study majors and teachers are not the only ones who will benefit from the renovations. The library is also open to teachers and children from the Dillon Center. In fact, the children have already visited the library several times for story time.

Another interesting feature of the seminar room is the unique photography that is displayed on the walls. The photographs, which were acquired from the library's archives, are of children from the Dillon Center in the 1960s.

The official Curriculum Library opening and dedication took place in December and was attended by children from the Dillon Center along with members of the St. Joseph's College administration, students in S. Susan Wilcox's Children's Literature class and representatives from Independence Community Foundation.

Highlights of the ceremony included senior Anthony Catalanotti reading stories to the children and students from S. Susan's class performing puppet shows.

After some light refreshments, the library was opened and it has now become a permanent part of the many teaching resources on the Brooklyn campus.

It's Not Just Irish Luck for These Girls *Duo Makes it to International Competition*

By Cory Jones

For St. Joseph's College sophomore Lisa Murphy and Freshman Catherine Muldoon, Irish Step Dancing is not just a hobby; it is a way of life.

Irish Step Dancing is unlike any other kind of dance, with extremely interesting characteristics. The term 'step dancing' comes from the eight counts to a bar of music that make up one step.

For anyone who has seen step dancers, they could not help but notice the colorful costumes. The dresses that the girls wear have evolved greatly over the years, but many of the designs used in the embroidery still come from the Book of Kells, which dates back to the mid 8th century.

Each school has a standard dress that everyone wears, and when a dancer gets to a certain level of competition, she may use what is called a solo dress. A solo dress is unique to the dancer, because she picks out her own design, fabric and colors. These dresses usually cost at least a thousand dollars.

The shoes, hard shoes in particular, are often confused with tap shoes, but hard shoes have fiberglass tips rather than metal ones.

Lisa Murphy began dancing with the O'Malley Irish Dance Academy in Marine Park in 1997 when she was just eight years old. At the time she knew nothing about it, but she grew to love it. Today she is described by her team

as "the top dancer in the school. She is a beautiful dancer with amazing stage presence. She is also extremely powerful for such a small person."

Catherit Irish Luck for These Girlsne Muldoon joined the academy in 1999 at the age of nine. She had seen performances of *Riverdance* on PBS and asked her mother to let her join. She is described by teammates as "dedicated teammate and a very strong dancer."

Typically, the girls spend hours practicing every Wednesday and Thursday, but they also run extra practices on Sundays when nearing competitions.

Both girls also teach at the O'Malley Academy. They teach on every level from beginners to championship caliber dancers. Lisa also travels to Breezy Point on Mondays to teach in the school's other location.

"I like to see the children finally master a new step," she said. "It's nice to see their hard work and mine pay off," she added.

Lisa and Catherine have performed at hundreds of shows from the local Knights of Columbus to Ellis Island and Shea Stadium's Irish Night.

St. Patrick's Day for Irish dancers is not just March 17th. It marks the beginning of the 'show season' with participation in parades throughout the city and shows almost every night.

Catherine recalls one night when

they had four shows back to back. "Every year there is always one weekend when we have show after show," she said. "It's like running a marathon!" she added.

For Lisa, her favorite part of doing shows is the time she gets to spend with her teammates. "We all travel together crammed in our teacher's car. We play music and laugh with each other. It brings us closer together as friends, and that affects our relationship on the dance floor," she said.

But it is not all fun and games. The girls are also serious competitors, competing in events called *feisannas* (pronounced *feshanna*) throughout the year.

This past November at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship, Lisa placed 17th in her solo, which was high enough to earn her a spot in the national competition in Nashville, Tennessee in July.

Both girls have also competed in an 8 hand competition which is a group *ceili* dance. Their performance in the regionals earned them a spot in the World Competition held this April in Philadelphia.

The lives of these two college students revolve around Irish Step Dancing. The passion and love for dance shows in the way they talk about dancing. They have the enthusiasm for their art that makes them dedicated to their craft in every way.



Step Dancers Catherine Muldoon and Lisa Murphy

ATTENTION SENIORS!
The deadline for placing an ad in
Footprints 2009
has been extended to
Friday, April 17th.

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What additional activities would you like to see offered to PGS Students?



I'd like to see the Annual Graduation Party include immediate family members.

—Adrienne Oliver



I would like to see PGS Poetry Readings on the Mall as an outlet for original and creative works.

—Rosalea Brown



I think there should be a Fall Meet and Greet session for all new Graduate Students.

—Shelton Fortune



I would like to see more Leadership Workshops including a Resume Writing Workshop.

—Angelina Rodriguez



There should be more networking events so students can interact and get to know one another.

—Helen Rodriguez



PGS should have its own Ring Day Ceremony and Graduation Party.

—Izola Wineglass



I would like to see us provide SHRM information literature to new prospects and new members of SHRM.

—Sherell Crute



There should be better promotion of PGS social activities to attract more interest and membership.

—Leslie-Ann Griffith



We should have more lectures on the weekend for PGS students to attend.

—Marie Cirmia



I would like to see us have more formal luncheons for the Spring semester.

—Alethia McKie



I would like to see PGS students take more trips throughout the school year.

—Arelis Collado



I think there should be more social activities so we can meet other PGS students and people in the community.

—Yongtao Huang

SJC Students Eyewitnesses to History

Delegation of Eight Views Inauguration

By Nina Zito

Reading about history is one thing, but getting it to witness it first-hand is another, and for eight chosen St. Joseph's College students who got to see the inauguration of President Barack Obama, their trip became a once in a lifetime event.

The students traveled to Washington, D.C. on January 16th and remained until January 21st. Each prospective candidate for the trip had to write an essay and was interviewed before the selection committee made its final choice.

The students selected for the trip were: Mike Capizzo, Carissa Cancemi, Jackie Sabin, Leandra Derico, Samanta Labady, Kushbu Khadka, Carelle Cherebin and Christian Jocelyn.

They were accompanied by chaperones Jodi Dublin and Michelle Corsetti of the Office of Student Life who guided them through the very special moment in history.

The group rented a house for the weekend nine miles from the actual city. They took the Washington Deluxe bus to a very crowded D.C. for the actual ceremony.

Each student paid a fee of \$200 for

accommodations and meals. The balance of the expenses were paid for by the college.

The inauguration of President Barack Obama was a once in a lifetime opportunity that the students got to be a part of," said Director of Co-Curricular Activities Sherrie VanArman. "A chance like that only comes around once, and they should be proud that they were there to witness it," she added.

While in Washington, the St. Joseph's students and faculty members participated in a variety of activities to enhance their experience during Inauguration Weekend. They took a trip to the Spy Museum, went on a DC night tour and attended an Obama Rama jazz concert and an Inauguration Brunch.

The group also did a community service activity, volunteering at a local soup kitchen, serving the needy who came by for a healthy meal.

There was also plenty of free time for the group to roam around Washington and get a feel for the nation's capital.

"In D.C., the spirits were high and the sense of community was strong,"

said Student Life Specialist Michelle Corsetti. "There were even people singing gospel songs on the Metro train line," she added.

Because of the harsh weather conditions, on the actual Inauguration Day, the students and staff watched the ceremonies from a hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"It was one thing to watch this historic moment on television, but it was another thing to be there where all the action was. We heard stories and felt all the levels of energy from the people around us," said Jodi Dublin, Assistant to the Dean of Students.

Each student seemed well aware that they were seeing something exceptionally special in their lifetimes. The sense of history was pervasive throughout the entire weekend.

"I not only got to be a part of a historic moment in history, but I was able to experience it with people that have the same interests and appreciation for history that I do," said junior Mike Capizzo.

A new president, a new administration, and a new era in American history—and SJC was there to see it happen.



SJC's Inauguration Attendees

College Knowledge

Now that we've had a winner, maybe this edition's trivia game will produce another! This one is the "Batter Up" edition with an emphasis on our local baseball teams. Remember, if you are the first one to get all the questions right, you will win a \$25 gift card to Best Buy. Play ball!

- Who was the very first player drafted by the N.Y. Mets?
- Who wore #7 for the New York Yankees right before Mickey Mantle?
- Name three former Brooklyn Dodgers who also played for the Mets.
- Name the Brooklyn Dodger outfielder who made a miraculous catch of a Yogi Berra fly ball that sealed the Dodger victory in the 1955 World Series.
- Yankee outfielder Bob Meusel of Murderer's Row had a brother who played for the NY Giants. Name him.

- What was Mets infielder Rod Kanehl's nickname?
- Who was nicknamed "The Old Perfesser"?
- This Yankee effectively ended Cleveland Indians fireballer Herb Score's career when a line drive off his bat hit Score in the eye. Name him.
- What baseball distinction does former Yankee Ron Blomberg hold?
- One of the worst fielders in baseball history, this Met first baseman started out as a highly touted rookie in the Yankee farm system. Name him.
- When this Met hit his 100th home run, he ran the bases backwards. Name him.
- What distinction did pitchers Al Jackson and Roger Craig both have with the Mets?
- What do Yankees Ralph Houk,

- John Blanchard, Charlie Silvera and Gus Triandos all have in common?
- This Yankee was a marine flyer in both World War II and the Korean War. Name him.
- "Holy Cow" and "Holy Canoli" were trademarks of what play-by-play broadcaster?
- What do Yankees Bob Cerv, Stan Bahnsen and Joba Chamberlain all have in common?
- What Met great was nicknamed "Nails"?
- Who was the starting catcher on the 1969 Miracle Mets squad?
- What do Yankees Sparky Lyle, Bill Momboquette, Danny Cater and Luis Tiant all have in common?
- This pitcher for the NY Highlanders (the early name for the Yankees) won 41 games for them in a season. Name him.

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



ALL SPORTS ALL THE TIME

By Przemek Kudia

FINAL THOUGHTS ON THE BIG GAME

For those of you who didn't tune in to the big game on February 1st, you still probably know that it was a nail-biter, coming down to the final seconds of play.

The Pittsburgh Steelers dominated the first half, but the Arizona Cardinals made a dramatic comeback in the second half, putting them in sight of victory until a remarkable last minute drive by the Steelers ended their hopes for their first Super Bowl title.

The game was full of great moments both on and off the field, from the play, to the commercials to the halftime show.

Possibly the most amazing play in the game (and maybe Super Bowl history) occurred with seconds left in the first half. The Cardinals had driven the length of the field and were set to score to take the lead. That is, until James Harrison picked off a Kurt Warner pass in the end zone and ran it back 100 yards for a Steelers touchdown—the longest single play in Super Bowl history.

For a huge player, Harrison looked like he had lit off his afterburners as he rumbled down the field. Once in the end zone, he collapsed onto his back and needed a respirator to get his breath back.

It was just one of the craziest plays I've ever seen in football, and it was great to see a defensive player other than a back get a chance to score a touchdown.

At that point in the game, a Cardinal touchdown would have given them a much needed boost to overcome their first half malaise, but they came up short.

At halftime, Bruce Springsteen put on a fantastic show which rocked the stadium for every moment of the twelve minutes allotted to him. Along with the E Street Band, the Boss played four great songs, two

of them off his classic and arguably best album, *Born to Run*.

After his first song, he did one of his trademark slides—but slid just a bit too far and wound up bumping the camera and all America.

As late as the middle of the fourth quarter, things looked pretty bleak for the Cardinals. But after the redbirds scored a touchdown and got

another two points on a safety that resulted from a personal foul, they got the ball back and had a chance to pull ahead.

A few downs later, Warner hit wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald in full stride for a 64 yard picture perfect touchdown and the Cardinals had the lead for the first time in the afternoon.

But the Steelers were having none of it. Aiming for their 6th Super Bowl Title, an NFL record, they turned the ball over to their quarterback, Ben Roethlisberger. Consummate pro that he is, he remained unruffled and pulled off a textbook 2 minute drill, connecting with Santonio Holmes with only 35 seconds left, for a 27-23 lead.

Kurt Warner and the Cardinals, despite a valiant comeback, were simply out of time, and the Steelers had the Vince Lombardi Trophy for the 6th time.

In some ways, though the game has a claim to the best Super Bowl of all time, the commercials might have reached a new low for interest and taste. Advertisers relied upon the usual mix of cute animals, flatulence jokes, and slapstick humor to sell their wares.

The cost of a 30 second spot in Super Bowl XLIII was an incredible \$2.6 million, but they justified the expense because the game is viewed by over a billion people around the world.

I thought it was a great game, but personally, I prefer last year's Giants-Patriots matchup for sheer drama. But it was exciting enough to keep me glued to my seat for its entire length.

Swimmers Already Making Big Waves

By Catherine Muldoon

Let's just say that with every dive, the new St. Joseph's College Swim Team is making a big splash.

As a team, the Lady Bears's have a 1-4 record swimming against schools that have long-established programs. But the SJC team in its first year of competitive swimming has accomplished many of the goals that it set for itself.

The eleven girls on the squad show a great amount of raw talent and promise, and this talent has become more technically refined as the swim season progresses.

Not having a pool itself, the girls are obliged to practice at Brooklyn Tech High School, but that has not dimmed their enthusiasm for the sport at all.

In their first meet against Sarah Lawrence College of New Rochelle in December, the girls had an impressive showing.

Head coach Lenny DiVirgillio was beaming with pride over his new team because he recognized the hard work they had put into swimming in just one month of practice.

"It's a terrifying feeling at first, when you swim competitively," said Jessica Linter. "I was so nervous, my stomach was in knots. Once you're in the pool, the whole thing happens so fast, you don't have time to be scared or nervous anymore because before you know it, it's over. Then you realize it wasn't so bad," she added.

During the team's second meet on February 1 against Mount Saint



Brienne Reilly show off her butterfly technique.

Vincent and the Patchogue campus of St. Joseph's College, freshman Kristin McMaster posted the first individual win in team history in the 50 yard freestyle event with a time of 28.79 seconds.

"I was really proud and excited to have the first win in the team's history. It may not have been my fastest race yet, but it's one I will never forget," said Kristen.

The stars seemed to align themselves for the team's third meet of February 5 against SUNY Old Westbury. They came away with a 117-104 victory that will go down as the team's first outright victory in its brief history.

Kristen McMaster placed first in

all three of her individual events. Fellow freshman Elizabeth Fiorella also had a first place finish in the 50 yard breast stroke, and sophomore Brienne Reilly placed first in the 50 yard backstroke. Junior Jessica Linter placed first in the 100 yard backstroke.

But the event of the evening was the 50 yard butterfly in which freshman Alison Nunziata out-touched her opponent by .14 of a second. Shades of Michael Phelps' 100 meter butterfly Olympic performance!

The team's last meet was against St. Elizabeth's College on February 13. For the Lady Bears, whatever the result of that contest, the team's first season has in virtually every respect been a winning season.

Golfers Hit the Links for New Season

By Przemek Kudla

Fore! Expect to hear that word a lot this spring as St. Joseph's College's Golf Team launches its premier season.

SJC has always offered student athletes an opportunity to participate in multiple sports teams and clubs, and in recent years, that roster has increased dramatically. Now, the Brooklyn campus adds its first-ever Golf Team.

The team, coached by Anthony Macapugay, is made up of athletes of all different types, but some have never even touched a golf club before. The willingness to learn is everything, and the team is relying upon these players' natural athletic abilities.

As one would imagine, the beginnings for the team were rough. Coach Pugay, as the players call him, spent the majority of the season teaching his players the basics involved in playing the sport.

Everything from grip, stance,

body control, etiquette and course strategy were amongst the many lessons his squad had to learn.

Frustrating? There is, perhaps, no more frustrating game on the planet than golf. The ball sits there and dares you to hit it. One is tempted to slug at it as if it were a softball—but one would soon learn that golf just isn't played that way.

Finesse, patience, fluidity are as much a part of the game as distance—and these too were lessons the new golfers had to learn.

With golfers from the volleyball, basketball and tennis teams, the squad sometimes looked more like a football team than a golf team.

As the season progressed, the players slowly began to learn several aspects of the game. In time, they will become decent golfers.

Coach Pugay noted that knowledge of the game is a big plus for his

players. By the close of the season, the team at least looked like it knew what it was doing.

Right before the season came to an end, Coach Pugay entered his team into one tournament to test how much his players had actually improved throughout the course of the season. It was a new experience

for the players, but everyone competed to the best of their abilities.

As might be expected, St. Joe's finished at the back end of the pack, but the novice players were by no means discouraged.

After taking the winter off, the golf season is once again right around the corner and the team is eager to resume its learning.

This spring, the team will compete in possibly three tournaments, and though they are new to the game, every player has high hopes for bringing home at least one trophy for SJC.



Edward Han grips it and rips it